

CURRENT TOPICS.

A writer in a London weekly has been discussing in pleasant and suggestive fashion the pleasures of rereading, and his thoughts have stimulated some discussion on this side.

There are lovers of books who read "Don Quixote" every five years or so. Not, surely, for the story, but for the superabundance of "good things" it contains—the rich sayings of Sancho, the eloquence, naive idealism and delicious absurdities of the hero.

Many books disappoint us at the second reading and induce sad reflections concerning the lost enthusiasms of youth. Others, on the other hand, improve on acquaintance and disclose new merits.

A BUTCHER'S PIGEONS.

Used to Carry Orders From Customers to Shop. "Orders executed by post" is a common enough phrase now-a-days, but "orders by pigeon post" is something new.

Mr. Harris, jr., when he goes to collect orders, takes six of the fastest birds in the trap with him. After various stages of his round (which usually takes three hours) Mr. Harris liberates the other birds with more orders, and by the time he returns to the shop all the orders received by pigeon post have been despatched.

Pretty teeth are responsible for a good many smiles.

ON THE FARM.

SKIM MILK FOR FEEDING.

Farmers who are feeding young stock, and particularly pigs, realize in a general way the value of skimmilk in feeding them, but they may not be so well informed as to the most profitable method of feeding it.

Professor Henry of the Wisconsin Experiment Station, has gone into this subject with great thoroughness, and gives details not merely of his own experiments, but a tabulation of the Danish experiments, which are of very great value.

The profit in feeding skim-milk with corn or meal depends very largely on the proportions in which they feed. Professor Henry's conclusions are that when feeding one pound of corn meal with one to three pounds of separator skimmilk, 327 pounds of skimmilk will save 109 pounds of meal.

Therefore, if our readers wish to get the most value out of their skimmilk, they should feed it in the proportion of two or three pounds of milk to one of corn meal, remembering that they can regard the milk as weighing two pounds to the quart, or eight pounds to the gallon.

In short, if you want to get the full value of skimmilk, don't feed your pigs altogether on it. To do so is to waste it. By combining the two in the proportions above given you get the full value of the corn.

FARM NOTES.

Dig potatoes when the vines and tubers have reached maturity. Choose a dry, clear day, so that the crop may thoroughly dry before going into storage.

There is such a thing as devoting too much attention to politics, to the neglect of the farm, and there is such a thing as devoting too much attention to the farm, to the neglect of politics. By politics we mean the science of government.

DOMESTIC TRAGEDY.

"Jenkins is Bobby's father, is anybody's business?" "No, papa, Willie Barlow's mamma is cutting his hair."

THE HAND AND HOW TO MAKE IT BEAUTIFUL.

ONE of the certain results of vacation days is a flood of inquiries about hands and their ailments. The girl who has played golf and tennis with ungloved hands, a desperate appeal, demanding how she can get rid of freckles in twenty-four hours!

All of these correspondents I must say that time will be required, also much patience and perseverance. To begin with, if you have led the unglorified outdoor life your hands will be either tanned or roughened. For the ordinary tan, not the hot, or cold, water formula for such a powder is this: Blanched almonds (powdered) 8 ozs.

When freckles of a superficial character result from exposure to the sun, peroxide of hydrogen will sometimes effect a quick cure. Keep the peroxide in a dark bottle (blue or brown) in a place.

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you must add only two of oxide of zinc. To twenty-four tablepoons of pomade, you add four tablepoons of the zinc. Apply this pomade to the hands every night before retiring and wear over it old, loose gloves.

HEALTH.

PURIFICATION OF WATER.

The diseases that may be spread by water—water-borne diseases, they are called—are so many and so serious—typhoid fever, dysentery and similar troubles being the most common—that the man who takes thought of his health or that of his family must see to it that the water he drinks is pure.

There are three ways of household purification of water—filtering, boiling and distilling.

The first is unwise. There are many filters which will, when new and clean, remove nearly all the germs from the water, as well as other visible impurities; but the best of them soon become foul, and unless they are constantly renewed or thoroughly cleansed they cease to act, and may even render a comparatively good water unfit to drink.

Distillation is the most effective means of purification, but the necessary apparatus is cumbersome and troublesome to use, and a method is impracticable for family use.

Boiled water is insipid because much of the air has been expelled, but this is easily remedied. After boiling the water should be poured into clean quart bottles, which have been sterilized being boiled in a separate vessel, each bottle being only half-filled. It is then corked and well shaken for a few minutes, by which means the water is again aerated and made palatable.

The centre of the third story is occupied by an alcove containing a gilt figure of the Virgin and Child, and flanked by two golden doors.

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Fashion Hints.

FADS AND FANCIES.

The princess skirt is in evidence. Khaki is much used in trimmings. Street gowns will have little trimming.

The waistcoat maintains its popularity. Autumn jackets are trimmed with large buttons.

There is a short waisted effect in nearly all coats. Hats will be worn as low as they can be put on the head.

Dark materials will be used for many of the fashionable street suits this winter. Most sleeves are down to the wrist, but the short sleeves have not been altogether discarded.

Street skirts are a trifle longer than the summer dresses have been, and for costumes that approach formality the skirts must be long.

The scarf or sash is in evidence in morning, afternoon, and evening gowns on young and old, and is draped in as many ways as the fancy of the wearer can contrive.

Children's fashions have changed but little and the famous "Buster Brown" costume still has no equal for general wear and simplicity.

The sheath girdle is the newest form of belt and is a flat, tubular ribbon, woven from mercerized thread. This waist accessory is made from one and one-quarter yards of ribbon, and is arranged around the waist, tied once, a short end overhanging the long one at the left side.

The funeral took place at Chester, England, recently of an old man named William Bidolph Cross, who was buried in a remarkable coffin made by himself.

The coffin, which took Cross ten years to make, consists of thousands of empty matchboxes glued on to a wooden shell. On the lid itself no fewer than five hundred matchboxes have been used, and as the boxes have been symmetrically arranged the effect is by no means inartistic.

Cross, who was eighty-four years of age, had for many years carried on business as a "curative electrician," and on the lid of his coffin he fixed an electric battery, which will be buried with him.

Fortunate is the dentist who is able to fill a lounge-felt want.

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